

∞ The Family Times ∞

I know what you did last summer

December 25, 2017

A newsletter arrives precisely when it means to

MOVING MOUNTAINS:

Of paperwork and household items



2017 presented us with several unexpected challenges. The first being a mountain of paperwork to deal with during the summer. Instead of the usual smooth visa renewal process we were used to here, we were faced with obstacle after obstacle. Thankfully, just when it seemed impossible the paperwork mountains were removed and visas issued faster than ever.

Secondly, shortly after that, we were told that we would have to move out of the apartment we had lived in for four years. Finding a new one suitable for our family proved incredibly challenging. Yet once again, just when it seemed that we would never find anything, we found a four story building at reasonable rental price. It has plenty of quirks, but we are grateful for the provision of much more room than we've ever had.



GRAND ADVENTURE

Grandpa John and Grandma Sharla Visit

Despite the challenges 2017 there were plenty of high-points to the year as well. Topping the list was the grandparents visit in May-June. Much fun was had by all at home reading, playing games, eating special food, and watching movies together. Additionally, we rented a van and visited local attractions such as parks, 9 Dragon Waterfall, and the Duo Yi River.



LIVING BACKWARDS

"ALWAYS LIVE BACKWARDS. THINK OF THE GOAL, THINK OF WHERE YOU WANT TO END UP, OF WHERE YOU WANT TO LAND, THINK OF ETERNITY — AND LIVE BACKWARDS FROM THAT." — ANN VOSKAMP, NEWSLETTER



The Cross

By Aaron Rugg

1. I'll sing about Jesus, my Lord,
Who paid the price none could afford,
How he died on a Roman tree,
To save us from our destiny.

2. He came to earth, and laid on hay,
Throughout the heavens, angels say:
Glory to God, and men on earth,
Tonight it is your Savior's birth!

3. Wise men did find him wrapped in rags,
And then brought him incense full bags,
Gold was put with the odors sweet,
At the bright child's blessed feet.

4. But when my Savior was thirty,
He did die on a Roman tree,
Judas my Savior then betrayed,
In the Olive garden's dark glade.

5. But when it was the bright third day,
There came an angel that did say,
Jesus is now not in the grave!
He arose and all men can save!

6. Now to be saved from darkest hell:
Don't believe the angel that fell.
Confess your sins, and that my Lord,
Paid the price that you can't afford.



OUR FAMILY

By Alexander Rugg

Once upon a time there were 3 boys. One that was big named Aaron. And one that was a little big that was named Andrew. And one that was small named Alexander. And there were parents. The dad was named Nate. And the mom was named Anna. And A baby Girl named Abigail. And the grandparents lived in America. The parents and boys And Girl lived in China. ❀





Rush Revere and the Presidency

By AARON RUGG

This book is about Cam, one of Rush Revere's former students, running for student body president. At first Cam's reasons for running are like being treated like a king. But as he goes on time travel adventures with Rush Revere's time traveling (and talking!) horse, Liberty, he changes his reasons for running to serving the students. Everything seems to be going okay_ until the principals daughter starts running. Can Cam, Rush Revere, Liberty, and his friends come up with a plan to defeat the principals daughter? Learn about some of the worlds greatest presidents_ and see who wins the election.

Grumpy Gail and Happy Gail

By ALEXANDER RUGG

Once upon a time a girl named happygail and girl named grumpygail they went to the park they played together until they found some Friends all 10 of them played together but then 'grumpygail didn't finish her smoothie she wanted potatoes and eggs and cucumbers and tomato sauce but happygail ate hers that next day it was Thanksgiving on thanksgiving they ate chicken instead of turkey they Oops I forgot they were Oops again they not again I got for dessert was apple pie o..o don't forget they had the Best thanksgiving ever



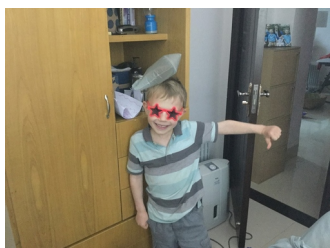
The Villain Who Came From Mars

By ANDREW RUGG

chapter 1

1. You would not expect a UFO to come flying to UFO Station. Earth. Station 33112244
2. in march.18. Because most come in march.1. but today that's what happened. a UFO came flying to UFO Station. Earth. Station 33112244.
3. the man who came out of the UFO was wearing a top hat covering half of his eye's. From mars
4. a pistol buckled in his belt. a chain-mail shirt and chain-mail pants.
5. his ticket looked this:
6. so he was from mars.
7. But after he moved into the hotel. things started disappearing from the neighborhood.

Story Continued on Comic Page



Andrew's secret club outfit

Alexander, I have to go do some errands. Do you want to come?

"But if there are Aarons, are there any Alexanders to do?"
- Alexander



"I like the paddle boats better." - Alexander

"Abigail, how did you get jello?"

You gave it to her mom.

"I did?"

Yes, you just gave it to her.

"I think I need more sleep." - Anna



See the Light Art Classes

This year the boys did some of the See the Light art class DVDs. They all enjoyed it and did well, but it was no surprise that Andrew loved it the most. Here is a picture of his robot collage which was one of his favorite projects.

SALVATION

By AARON RUGG (AGE 9)

The sun was bright, the grass was green,
Beauty was always to be seen,
Until an evil snake did come,
And made us far from peace to run.

Her arms were chained, her limbs were tied,
Until Jesus Christ came inside,
He snapped the ropes, he smashed the chains,
And saved us from a death in flames.

Now that from sin we have been freed,
We should now preform a good deed,
To save men from a fiery death,
Before our soul's this plain have left.
And when in heaven we do reign,
We'll sing to God upon that plain,
We'll sing beside the pearly gates,
While Satan looks at us with hate.



Hereafter freshly darned socks shall always be named,

"MYSTERY AND ROMANCE"

- Robert Timmons,
Larkrise to Candleford,
Season 3, Episode 5

"Why is it
A-men and
not A-man?"
- Alexander



"Baths are
my one
weakness."
- Dorcas
Lane,
Larkrise to
Candleford
Season 1,
Episode 1

"I hope I
marry a girl
with a
pretty
name, curly
ponytail,
and who
wears a lot
of purple."
- Andrew

"Abigail just
had an epic
clunk."
- Aaron

HAIKUS

Capture

By AARON

Pawn looks like a wall
but soon to fall pawn smash like
a ram smashed to land

Battle

By ANDREW

A knight on his horse
galloping at opponent
stabbed and won battle

Train

By ALEXANDER

Train bumped into tree
Train finally got fixed up
Another train helped

Track

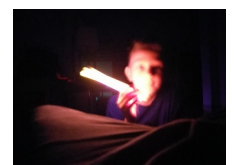
By ALEXANDER

Track made out of wood
track finally turned metal
trains can run on now



Recycled marker
sidewalk paint.

Alexander loved
painting rocks
and made a
whole collection.



The power goes
out again and
the boys say,

"Yea, we can
play shadow
fight!"





Books Read This Year:

**Aaron**

Goal 80 Chapter books-
Actual 120+

Favorites:

Amateur's Mind

LOTR Return of the King

Sugar Creek Gang: The Treasure Hunt

**Andrew**

Goal 50 Chapter
Books-

Actual 60+

Favorites:

Narnia Series

Cooper Kids Series

**Alexander**

Goal 100 Picture Books-
Actual 180+ Picture Books
and 20+ Chapter Books

Favorites:

The Three Little Pigs
Never Trust a Tiger

**Abigail**

Read Lots and Lots of Reading
Cards

Favorites:

Colors, Animals, Actions, Letters
and Clothes

Family Read Alouds:

The Iliad Volume II

Entire Winnie the Pooh Collection

Entire Rush Revere Series

The Odyssey Graphic Novel and
Start of Full Translation

AIO Voyage with the Vikings

The Iliad Volume II

BY AARON

The Iliad starts with the leaders of the Greek army, Agamemnon and Achilles (swift of foot) arguing. Achilles (swift of foot) almost killed Agamemnon, but Ulysses stops him. Achilles (swift of foot) goes to his camp, and Agamemnon leads the army by his self. Things are going well, after someone calls the army girls, and Ulysses kills him. But when they reach they strong built walls of Troy, Jove lets Hector (the leader of the Trojan army) drive them back to their ships. Diomed and Ulysses sneak into the Trojan camp, and Neptune drives the Trojans back. Hector challenges anyone to a duel, and Ajax, a giant, accepts. Ajax is winning, when Hector tells him that it is dark, and escapes. Read the rest of the story in The Iliad.

**RUSH REVERE AND THE BRAVE PILGRIMS**

BY ANDREW RUGG

This book is about Rush Revere substitute teacher of Manchester-Middle his first students that we know are Mr. Thomas White who goes by Tommy. Freedom. And Elizabeth who is a bully. Tommy is the joker of Manchester-Middle. Freedom is shy at first but watch how she changes when we go Rush Rush Rushing To history With Rush Revere's time traveling and talking horse Liberty! Learn about the BRAVE PILGRIMS and RUSH REVERE.

Rush
Rush
Rushing
To
History!!



Like mother like daughter

**The Odyssey
(Graphic Novel Version)**

BY ALEXANDER RUGG

My favorite part of the Odyssey was when Odysseus blinded a Cyclops. Odysseus stabbed him in the eye with a sharp stick he stuck in the fire. When the Cyclops asked his name, Odysseus said his name was nobody. So then the cyclops said, "Help, help nobody is hurting me!" That was the funny part.

"That book is really old, we got it when I was like 4 1/2."
- Andrew at 7 years of age



JOYFUL ENGLISH

After a couple of false starts we have kids attending English sessions at our new location. We've had groups for kids age 4-7 and 11-13 as well. At Joyful English we try to make English fun and use a lot of games, songs, and art in our sessions. Our kids have also enjoyed meeting more kids here and practicing some simple Mandarin while the local kids practice English. We joyfully look forward to what will happen next year with our family business.



Fast Friends: Andrew made fast friends with Nancy and Lindsey (shown on his R and L).

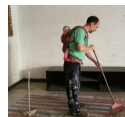
"YOU GO WHERE YOU'RE SENT AND
YOU STAY WHERE YOU'RE PUT AND
YOU GIVE WHAT YOU'VE GOT."

— JILL BRISCOE,
IF GATHERING 2017

WOULD YOU WORK 7 YEARS FOR A
WIFE?

Aaron, "Not really. I'd make counter offers, starting at 0 years, going up by half-years, until it got over 5 years. Then I'd try to find someone else."
Andrew, "Well, maybe. If she was kind. And if it has to take that long."

"The invention of the bow and arrow changed the face of war forever. For the first time, a warrior could impact a battle scene from a great distance. Similarly, our children are the only messages we'll send to a world we'll never see. They are the only provision we have for impacting a world at a distance."
— Stu Weber, Tender Warrior



RUGRATS AND ROOKS

Aaron, Andrew, and Alexander were invited by Chess.com to record some videos for their [YouTube channel](#) and [Chesskid Facebook](#) page. Aaron provides most of the commentary and Andrew and Alexander add humor and fun. They were amazed when some of their early videos got several thousand views.



Promotional Projects



To help Joyful English gain some exposure we did a number of promotional projects. We passed out fliers and did English activities at our business, at the local park, and at a local school. The whole family got involved and the kids got to meet a lot of other kids.



Pack It Up

In their cheesiest couple's trip yet, Nicole and Ben get to see Nicole's beloved Packers in person. Chicago based Ruggs contemplating turning green and gold (due to stomach upset).



ECHO

Ben and his co-workers have been hard at work at an important project this year, Echo Prayer App.

Need reminders for all those requests? [Echo can help.](#)

Pray without ceasing. 1 Thess. 5:17



FEARFUL FIRES

Forest fires inear Simi Valley threaten evacuation and cause tense moments for the California Ruggs this December. Thankfully, the anger passed without direct impact to the family.



Visiting Von Qualens:
Traveling out to Colorado and the Von Qualen's trip to Simi Valley were a double highlight for both families.



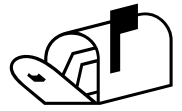
"Yea for braces! A pretty smile is going to get better." – Grandpa Jeff

D

The Family Times

12/25/17

Dear You



Dear Grandparents

Dear Grandparents,
Merry Christmas! I love you. Thanks for the Christmas presents. I hope you come to visit next year. I'm going to plan fun things to do when you're here.

Love,
Aaron

Dear Grandparents,
It is good that we moved and now have 4 floors. It is fun to go on scavenger hunts because they are harder. Our bedrooms are on the 2nd floor. We park the car on the 1st floor. Thanks for the Christmas presents. I'd like you to visit. If you come you could sleep on the 4th floor and we could play my new games and watch my new videos. I love you.

Love,
Andrew

Dear Grandparents,
I like the Christmas presents you gave me. Thanks!

I hope you can visit next year and stay in our guest room. We need to get it ready for you.

When you are here I want to play with toys and computer games.

Love,
Alexander

Papa and Gram-Gram,
Love! Love! Come! Come!
Love,
Baby



"WHERE'S BABY'S
SWORD? WHERE'S
BABY'S SWORD?"

— ABIGAIL

HOW MANY THINGS THEY DONE FOR THE RUGG FAMILY TIMES

BY ALEXANDER RUGG



Anna made lunch And dinner And did piano lessons with us for the Rugg family times

Nate worked And bought food for the Rugg family times

Aaron And Andrew And Alexander did there jobs for the Rugg family times

ALEXANDER'S ANECDOTES

"Why does it say,
'God makes all things
beautiful in his time.'
But our garbage cans
aren't beautiful?"

"When I grow up, I
want to be king! How
do you get a queen?"

"Dad you can be the
judge of the race. You
can give us the
destructions and see
who wins."



"When I grow up,
I'm going to give this
ring to the girl I'm
going to marry. Green
is my favorite color."

AMUSING ANDREWISMS

Andrew, do you
know what these
truffles are? Keys to a
girl's heart. "Keys to a
go cart! That's
Awesome!"

"I could be a dad
someday... if someone
accepts the offer."

"Abigail is small for
her size."

"Mom you're
treating Alexander a
little like a servant."

"White cheddar
cheese is like fool's
mozzarella."



"Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!
For Everything!"

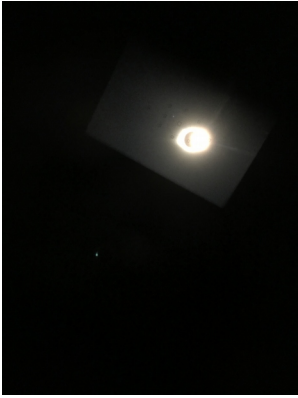
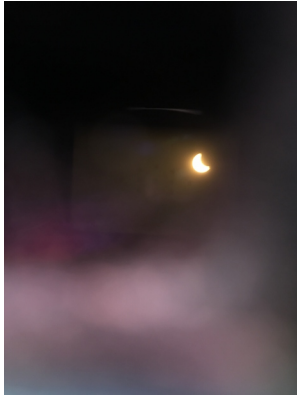
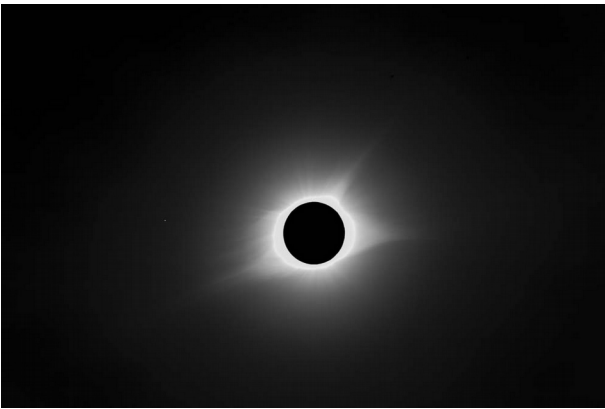
Emails from our children...

Kids Rugg
Dec 17, 2016
to me, Dad

Andrew broke an magnet. Can you come?

Kids Rugg
Feb 14, 2017
to me, Mom

hre is your present for valntimesday {i
love you so much i will never take my
away from you. go to my sweet baby.} it
is a song.

*Ben Rugg**Ben Rugg**Jeff Rugg Photography**Photo from Ben Rugg*

TOTAL ECLIPSE 2017

On August 21, 2017 a total eclipse passed through southern IL and many of the Rugg clan made a pilgrimage to see it. Hours and hours in the car were all worth it the moment darkness descended and sunset skies and stars surrounded them. D O C

∞ AN AARON RUGG RIDDLE ∞

Between me ice and fire do meet, When I am on my mission, I'm fleet.
But my doom's a fiery death, So hurry before earth's gazes I have left.

TOTALITY

BY MARY RUGG

WE MADE IT! AND SAW TOTALITY!
MUCH COOLER THAN I HAD IMAGINED IT
WOULD BE....

TOOK 10 HOURS TO GET HOME....UGH!

BUT WORTH IT, IN THE END.

NOW I KNOW THAT A TOTAL ECLIPSE IS VERY
DIFFERENT FROM A PARTIAL! AND I
UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE BECOME ECLIPSE
CHASERS!

WE HAVE ALL PLEDGED TO TRY TO RETURN TO
THE SAME SPOT IN 7 YEARS, WHEN TOTALITY
RETURNS....MAYBE YOU CAN BE WITH US!

Duck Tales Return

THIS EPIC TRIP ALSO
PROVES MOM STILL
KNOWS THE ENTIRE
DUCK TALES
THEME SONG.
WOO-OO.

"Dad, when can
we go back to
modern day?"
- Alexander

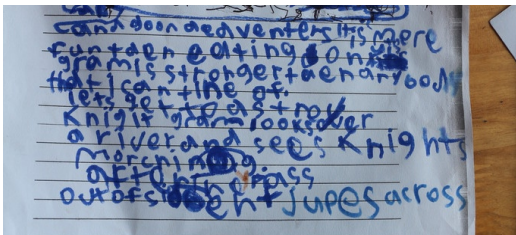
*Photo from Ben Rugg*



King's Quest Review

BY ANDREW RUGG

Going on adventures is more fun than eating donuts.
Gram is stronger than anything I can think of.
Let's get to a story.
Knight Gram looks over the river and sees knights marching. After the pass out of the shoot he jumps across.



This writing assignment asked the student to write a review using as many superlative comparisons as possible

I'm Thankful For

BY AARON RUGG

1. The pumpkins growing in the grass,
The clouds that over the sun pass,
To shield us from the sun's bright rays,
Which let us to upon earth gaze.
2. The trees that shield us from the frost,
Jesus, who died upon the cross,
But who, on the third day did rise,
So we could join him in the sky's.
3. Lord of heaven, you made them all,
We ever at your feet will fall,
So let us join the royal throng,
And sing the everlasting song.



For this year's [Thanksgiving Pageant](#)
Aaron Rugg wrote this moving poem

On Missing Skype

All the boys came up with what you could have been doing:

Aaron said, "Maybe he was playing chess or watching a chess tournament and forgot how late it was."
Andrew said, "Maybe he was programming and lost track of time."
Alexander said, "Maybe he was watching a Pooh bear video and didn't want to stop."

They are looking forward to talking to you guys tomorrow. ☺



Everyone loves
Funmaster Mike!
"Funmaster Mike,
Funmaster Mike!!!"



"When I get bigger
and compose a
song I'm going to
invent a staccato
rest." – Andrew



Snoopy and Woof's
grand wedding.
Now they are ready
to move into a
place of their own.

SAM AND ALEXANDER PART 1 (Dedicated to my Mom and Dad)

BY ALEXANDER RUGG

chapter 1

Once upon a time there was a boy named Alexander and a dog named Sam
today they loved adventures today they got on ship
there was a treasure in the ocean Sam and
Alexander got on the next island they saw 3 knights
they said hi and the knights said hello they went to a
battle and so did Alexander and Sam
they fought off bad guys and so did Sam they went to
the woods they hunted in the woods
they went to a house they ate meat from hunting after
that they found a cave they went in but
the treasure kept floating on and on and Sam and
Alexander didn't know that the chest was there
Alexander's house is a basement Alexander and Sam
found some water they jumped in

Continued on the [Games](#) page...



Jiao Zi, Jiao Zi and More Jiao Zi

At New Years our accountants invited us over for jiao zi. To bao jiao zi (pack Chinese Dumplings) is something you do together in this culture. Everyone helps and then everyone eats. At New Years Andrew really got into it and helped make the most. Then all of the accountants wanted pictures with all the boys.

Later in September we had a free jiao zi and English activity at Joyful English. Our family was almost as popular as the jiao zi. It was really nice that we had beautiful weather. We had so many people so up. Everyone could "pack" their own jiao zi. But then it was all put into big pots and boiled. Afterwards we all ate together, while we Ruggs answered the same amusing questions over and over. By the way, are we really all one family?



∞An Aaron Rugg Riddle∞

I have a comb, but no hair.
I'm not a fire, yet I flare.
My taste is 20 also 4.
What I eat do not need more.

It's Not a Waste

One night at dinner, one brother was reaching for one of few remaining pieces of pizza, when another brother cried out, "No don't waste the pizza!" Giving the pizza to someone else is not wasting it. Giving something to another is not wasting it. Pouring out your life for another is not a waste either, even if it seems that way at times.



Cheese Me

Abigail, "Cheese!"
Cheese for you?
Abigail, "You!"
Cheese for me?
Abigail, "Me!"
Cheese for me or for you?



Abigail, "Baby!"

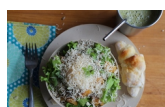


SOMETIMES
YOU WONDER IF
YOUR AT THE
GROCERY STORE
OR THE
AQUARIUM.



Feeling
Amorous?
Buy this
yogurt

"I've never
seen such a
fancy salad,
not even at
Chick-fil-A."
- Nate



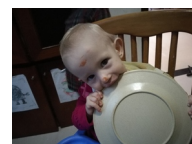
BFG Party



When Grandma Sharla and Grandpa John came, they brought The BFG book and movie. Since we actually have something that very much resembles the movie version of "Snozzcumber" we got one and had a BFG party. On the menu: Snozzcumber, Froboscottle, and Dream Jar Jello. The snozzcumber was great as a centerpiece, not so great to eat. Actually, bitter melon is pretty terrible to eat.



Good to the last lick!



That time we
accidentally
bought 170
eggs



CRAZY ANIMAL GAME

There were many old and new games played during Grandma Sharla and Grandpa John's visit this year, but perhaps the most unique was the crazy animal game. Each person got to create one part of an animal and the creation was assembled. Together the entire creative team comes up with a name and back-story for the animal.

Here are a few animals we've come up with.

Foxduel:

Lives in the woods.
Kills sheep to eat.

Alihorsesnake:

Found in every country. Digs a hole in the foundation of houses, sneaks in and eats all the and people and mice.

Hipponineteenamus:

Lives in the jungle and the field. Eats sheep to live. Needs armor in case a giant sheep tries to hurt its tummy (its only weak spot).

Underwater Goat:

Eats sharks and plants. Defends itself against sharks with its pointy head.

T-Squirrel:

Live in the jungle. Most of the times it eats bears, but it can eat people too.

What animals could you create?



WHY I LOVE CHESS

By AARON RUGG

I like that it is a battle game. It is fun. It is more complicated than most games. It requires thinking and strategy. I don't like games of chance. By studying you can improve your playing abilities.



SAM AND ALEXANDER PART 2

By ALEXANDER RUGG

chapter 2

well they were in the water they got out and they saw they were at green robot's castle
they got in and there was green robot

chapter 3

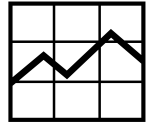
so Alexander and Sam and green robot went as they went a big light came going at them
and they fell to the ground they got up the light turned into fire
Alexander used his
water bucket to put it out Sam rushed over and said are you all right Alexander said yes

Continued on the Lifestyle page...

Tux Kart Race

By ANDREW RUGG

The race was on the kart went through a tunnel, over a bridge and was launched over a gap. One enemy cut in front. But kart Tux (that's the cart) shot the enemy and sped through the finish first.



The Tallest of the Tallest of the Tall

When we are out as a family there are a few standard questions we get.

- Are we all one family? How is that possible?
- Why are **all** Americans so white?
- Why is English so hard when standard Chinese is so easy?
- And perhaps the most frequently asked question of all... why are **all** Americans the tallest of the tallest of the tall?



∞ AN AARON RUGG RIDDLE ∞

I sweep the earth and comb the sky
High I leap and low I lie



BEING EMOTIONALLY

MANIPULATIVE ISN'T VERY PUNY

Actually, it isn't funny or even punny,
but it is kind of puny.



ABIGAIL REMINDS YOU TO
DRINK MORE TEA



MOVE MORE, MOVE TOGETHER

Challenge Yourself

BY AARON RUGG

One of our favorite outings during the grandparents' visit was to an indoor rope climbing obstacle course. When you arrive you put on a harness and attach it to rope. The first obstacle you cross is a swinging bridge. Then you have to jump from stump to stump. Eventually, you go up to another level that has even more obstacles. My favorite challenge was jumping stump to stump. ☐



GRANDPA'S GREENHOUSE

Grandpa Jeff got his long expected greenhouse this year. At present it is teeming with plant life. This Crinum is amazing. The only problem may be that he has already outgrown this current greenhouse. Will there be a greenhouse addition in the future, or will the rest of the house become a greenhouse?

SAM AND ALEXANDER

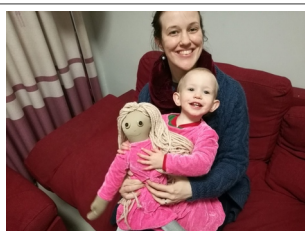
PART 3

BY ALEXANDER RUGG

chapter 4

123456789 said Sam Alexander sighed cost a bunch to Buy a sword so they went to another sword shop there were big swords and tiny swords daggers shields

Continued on the Traditions page...



MY
MINI
ME

"I felt deep comfort that He would make it okay. He would handle it. I just needed to be still and wait."
– Katherine Wolf, Hope Heals



"Abigail is teaching me how to be a baby."
– Alexander



BLOCK
BUILDER



DOMINO
DOMINATOR



MONKEY BAR
MASTER



VICTORY!

"When bad news comes, we plop in His lap rather than grab chocolate. We take our pain right to Him instead of expecting friends and family to make everything better."
– Carey Scott, Un-Common



"When I become a man I think I'll move to Singapore. Unless Omo moves here. Then I guess I could stay."
– Alexander

∞AN AARON RUGG RIDDLE∞

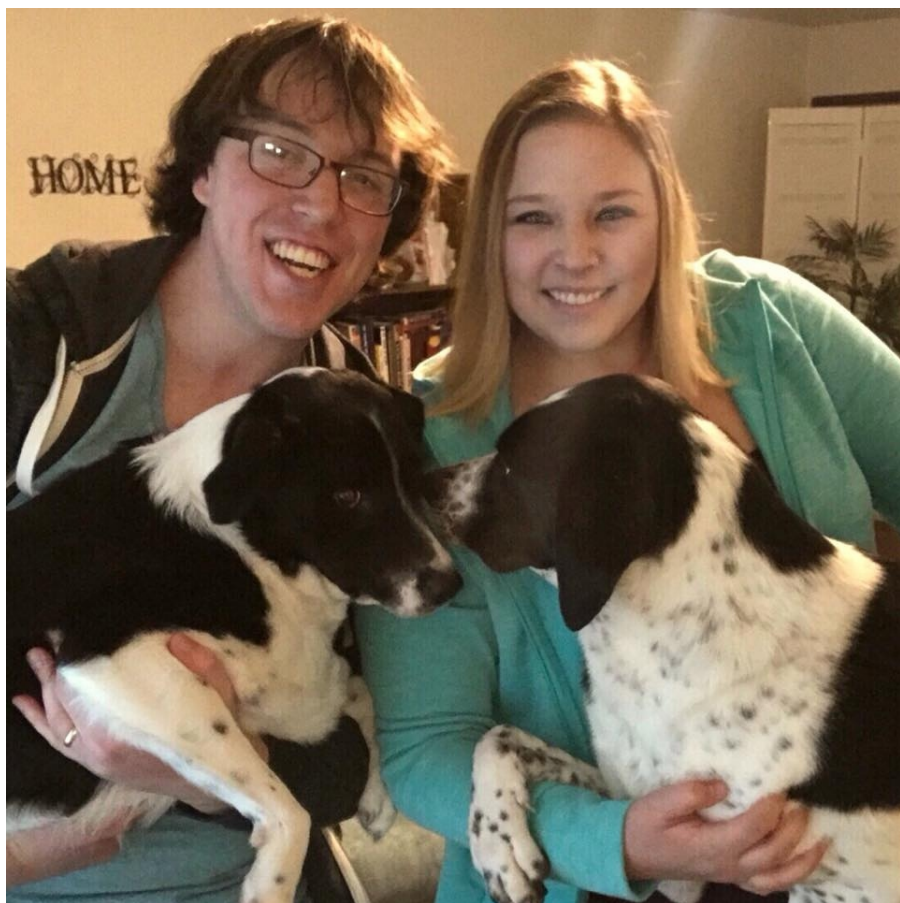
I have a key, but can not lock.
I may have hinges, but won't block.
I have pedals, not on a bike.
I'm not good on a long foot hike.



"IT WAS NICE OF GRANDMA MARY AND GRANDPA JEFF AND GRANDMA SHARLA AND GRANDPA JOHN TO HAVE THE SAME WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SO WE COULD REMEMBER IT." –

ANDREW





FRITZ FOUR

By NATHANIEL FRITZ

Nathaniel and Mary are still enjoying life in Columbia, MO with their two energetic puppies, Penny and Kermit. Nathaniel continues to work at Veterans United Home Loans as a loan processor and has actually become slightly less laid back in this new position – now he only procrastinates most of the time instead of all of the time. Mary will be switching jobs in early January, leaving Boone County Family Resources to become an activities coordinator at The Bluffs nursing home in Columbia – she's excited to work with senior citizens and br(e)ighten their day.

Penny and Kermit still have a ton of energy but have started to mature a bit and are actually usually calm – as long as Nathaniel and Mary aren't Skyping with Grandma and Grandpa, anyway. Nathaniel and Mary had a fun anniversary vacation in downtown Chicago in August and enjoyed the sights and sounds of Michigan Avenue. Their plan for their next anniversary vacation is to actually step foot in Canada and see Windsor, Toronto, and Niagara Falls.



UNCLE NATHANIEL

AND

AUNT MARY

By ALEXANDER RUGG

They got married. They got one dog. And then they got another dog. It might be dangerous to go to his house because his dogs are really big. But Uncle Nathaniel wouldn't let the dogs eat me, so I might like to visit Uncle Nathaniel's and Aunt Mary's house someday, as long as the dogs don't see me. I'd like play computer games and toys with Uncle. And we both like to eat pizza. Perhaps we could eat pizza together. Perhaps we could eat jiao zi too.



The Family Times

12/25/17

Outdoors



**Life Lessons
Learned:
When you see
bees or selfie-
sticks, it is time
to run!**



SORRY I CAN'T MY PLANTS NEED ME

the things they play

By ALEXANDER RUGG

Nate And Alexander played Alexanders house game And just Alexander played Aaron's minecraft game called city but All 3 of them played computer games but usually Alexander gets to play His House game by him self OR play computer games by him self

the colors they like

Alexanders favorite color is green Andrews favorite color is red Aarons favorite color is blue Abigail's favorite color is pink

where they played

in the house out in the grassy hill

what they play in the grassy hill

baseball And they Explored the meadow

questions

so what did you hear from the story .
Come back for the next part of the story



"By perseverance the snail reached the ark."
- Charles Spurgeon





Remembering Great Grandma Shirley

1930 – 2017

EXCERPT FROM EULOGY BY KATHY CHIARAVALLI

My mom was a trailblazer, a leader, an activist and a pioneer. She was creative, adventurous, artistic and open minded. She was a Lutheran school teacher who loved children; frequently teaching up to 42 combined fifth and sixth graders in a class. She was born in Milwaukee in 1930, the daughter of a railroad detective who once guarded FDR and a seamstress. My mom loved family. Her mom had 8 brothers and sisters and enjoyed frequent gatherings for holidays and picnics. She loved her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was fun loving and mischievous. I remember her sliding down the banister at school and sliding across the ice. She was once fired from a job for riding the chocolate factory assembly line just like Lucille Ball and Laverne and Shirley. She also nearly got fired for pranking her boss with exlax cookies.

My mom had a very strong faith. When she became overwhelmed, she would belt out hymns like Rock of Ages. ✠



SHIRLEY'S INNER AND OUTER BEAUTY SPARKLES



"I'll always remember Grandma Shirley as a fun and funny Grandma. I remember trips to her house: cinnamon rolls

for breakfast, Upwords games, so much laughter, and admonitions to save room for dessert. I'll always remember her teaching me how to dip chocolates and how to knit. I treasure the fact that she was here to meet her great-grandsons Aaron, Andrew, Alexander and the long expected great-grand-daughter Abigail."
– Anna





CHRISTMAS SONG

BY ALEXANDER RUGG

Christmas is here the snowflakes Are drifting down it is snowing Every where the Earth is
Covered in snow Glor-r-r-ry is in Sight God has made it go Christmas is Wonderful yes it is
snow Comes Every Christmas look there it is drifting down on the ground it is A perfect
Christmas day for making snowballs And skating on the ice the snowflakes Come from
God And Jesus

Aaron turns 9!



Andrew turns 8!



Alexander Turns 5!



Abigail Turns 1!



10th Anniversary



"Sometimes I feel guilty
that we have it so good."
- Gary Thomas, Cherish



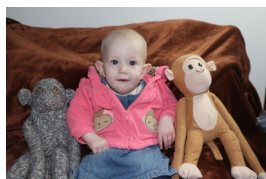
"Granola fields are
blooming!"
- Alexander

This Easter We Were Thrilled to Celebrate New Life
in More Ways than One



SENDING YOU HUGS

"When tears show up,
we would do well to
pay attention."
- Emily Freeman,
A Million Little Ways



Little monkey #4 is easy to identify

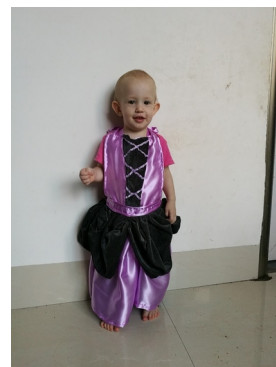


Flower Crowns the hottest LP accessory



Queen of Hearts, Rainbows, Pink, and Purple

Abigail is the first child to develop a definite fashion sense at before 2 years of age. Outfits must have a proper ratio of pink, purple, or a very cute design or they will be promptly and viciously rejected. ‡



FAVORITE PANTS

What kinds of pants do you boys like to wear the most these days: track pants, jeans, khaki pants, or sweat pants?

Aaron, "Jeans, because they have a lot of pockets."

Alexander, "Sweat pants, because they are comfortable and easy to get on and off for the potty."

Andrew, "I like wacky pants."

Matching Mom and Fashion Fights

BY ABIGAIL RUGG

I want to be just like mom. I want to do what she does. I want to go everywhere she goes (even the bathroom). I love dressing like her too. But these headbands, that is where I draw the line. 🍌🍌🍌



INTRODUCING
THE MIXING BOWL
BOWLER

JOYFUL ENGLISH
SHIRTS
SPOTTED ALL OVER LP



STRONG,
VALIANT,
AND COURAGEOUS
NECKLACES AND BOYS

GRANDMA SHARLA
DESIGNS ARE ALWAYS A
TOP CLOTHING PICK IN
OUR HOUSE



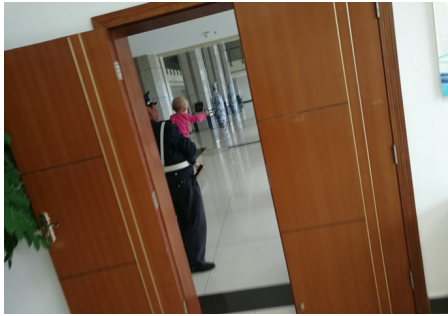
CUTE
CLOTHES
COLLECTOR

T

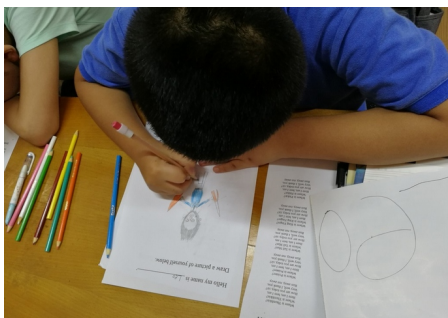
The Family Times

12/25/17

Tabloids



DISTRACTION



INSPIRING STUDENTS TO GREATNESS



SLEEPING BABY SPOTTING



LION TAMER

"LOOK BEFORE YOU SWALLOW
ALEXANDER!"

— NATE

IF I WERE A SUPERHERO...

Aaron: I'd like to win every chess game. But would be even better if I could make everyone believe in Jesus. I'd like to be super strong and super smart.

Andrew: I'd like to be able to transport to anywhere in the world, any time I wanted, without anything ever stopping me. I'd like to be completely and immediately self-healing. I'd like to shoot red lightning.

Alexander: I'd like to zap all of the bad guys with green lightning. I'd like to have a spear that could secretly zap bullets out of it. I'd like to give people Bibles. I'd like to be super strong, super smart, super fast, and invincible.

Abigail: I'd like to turn everything pink, purple or rainbow colored. I'd make everyone take me wherever I want to go and do my every bidding.



CAUGHT JOY-RIDING PINK-FOOTED



ANDREW AND ALEXANDER HAVE BEEN COMING UP WITH PLANS FOR WHEN THEY GROW UP.

THE LATEST PLAN IS THAT WE RENT A 5 STORY BUILDING.

MOM AND DAD LIVE ON TOP.

THEN AARON ON THE 4TH,
ANDREW (AND FAMILY) ON THE 3RD,
ALEXANDER (ET AL) ON THE 2ND,
AND

ABIGAIL ON THE 1ST FLOOR.

(WE DON'T KNOW YET IF ABIGAIL WANTS A FAMILY BUT THEY COULD LIVE WITH HER).



Somehow we found ourselves in the local advertising for these pens...
What do you think? Could they be the cure for myopia?

Anti myopia pen, prevent myopia pen, smart pen, myopia control pen

Prevent myopia pen Anti-myopia pen is designed for students developed an amazing anti-myopia pen, This is the first professional students "are dual position" written word and the invention of the patented product "Anti-myopia pen" particularly suitable for primary, secondary stage students to use, but also very suitable have myopia, humpback, pencil incorrect student correction, calligraphy.

Prevent myopia pen function principle: children looked down and write, written indent go, you can not write, raise the head, written out again, do not let the children write head down when the child down when writing, pen automatic retraction, can not write and when to restore the correct posture, the pen tip immediately stretched out, but also to write normally (normative posture).

Different angles always supervise, accurate positioning, high sensitivity, packing: anti-myopia shelves plastic pencil case: Patent Protection Open Pen can be used as bookshelves, and anti-myopia, long-term when stationary, gift boxes (old ordinary carton) 6: The pen design is more luxurious, the atmosphere, solid.

Children really come into the temple of knowledge, from the holding pens and the correct posture starts, wrong sitting posture and hold a pen, a direct impact on children's vision health and growth and development, but also indirectly affect the child's life learning good habits...

what computer game's they do

BY ALEXANDER
barrage brainparty Enigma
THE END



This year's favorite science experiments looked at the effects of earthquakes and comets on towns and buildings.



Look, you.
I can do it too.
— Dog, Ten Apples Up On Top



"ALL WE HAVE IS RIGHT NOW ANYWAY." CHAUTONA HAVIG, CHRISTMAS EMBERS



"How can it be a large career to tell other people's children about the Rule of Three, and a small career to tell one's own children about the universe? How can it be broad to be the same thing to everyone, and narrow to be everything to someone?"

- G.K. Chesterton

"We should upgrade our kitchen rags... do they sell rags?" - Nate



ABIGAIL LOVES TO HELP WITH THE LAUNDRY



EVENTUALLY,
AFTER TEACHING THEM HOW
TO CLEAN MORE TIMES THAN
YOU CAN COUNT, YOU'RE
CHILD MIGHT NOT ONLY
CLEAN WITHOUT BEING
ASKED, BUT ALSO MAKE
THEIR OWN CLEANERS.



"Here I can become the blessing, a little life that multiplies joy, making the larger world a better place. God can enter into me, even me, and use these hands, these feet, to be His love, a love that goes on and on and on forever, endless cycle of grace." - Ann Voskamp, One Thousand Gifts



Once upon a time in a land far away there were some children who begged to watch Latin videos and folded the laundry without being asked...

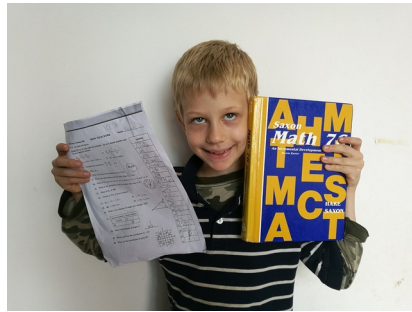
"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of. " - Benjamin Franklin



The great thing about the fourth baby is that they can use all the things you made for the other babies



MAKING GRANDPA WARMLY
WELCOME



1ST BORN FINISHES MATH BOOKS
TOO QUICKLY



SATURDAY NIGHT
LITTLE HOUSE MOVIE NIGHT



GRANDMA WINNING THE BABY
OVER WITH ICE CREAM

SAM AND ALEXANDER

PART 4

BY ALEXANDER RUGG

chapter 5

17 years of October they went to the sword shop they bought a big sword they killed bad guys with it

chapter 6

on October 18 Sam and Alexander saw a chest in the ocean Alexander jumped in it and caught the chest he was going away but Sam threw a rope down

the End

∞ AN AARON RUGG RIDDLE ∞

I have a key, but can not lock.
I may have hinges, but won't block.
I have pedals, not on a bike.
I'm not good on a long foot hike.

There were 3 boys

By Alexander Rugg

*there were 3 boy's of the family of the Rugg they played they played
games they played they played And they did there jobs
there were parents Even grandparents
there was a little girl to happen
to happen to happen
All there to Be
seen to Be
seen*



Cooking Together

"Character is built slowly: step-by-step, choice-by-choice, even mistake-by-mistake, one strength building on another over time."
Elizabeth Laing Thompson,
When God Says Wait



BIRTHDAY BIKES

This year Grandpa John and Grandma Sharla's birthday present to each boy was to go and pick out a brand new bike for their birthday. Each boy eagerly awaited their birthday trip to the bike shop and thought about all the things they'd like in a bike. Aaron's is blue, big, and fast with 10 speeds. Andrew's is red with a basket, bell, and secret compartment. Alexander's is a super green bike that lets him go really fast. 🚲



"There is a difference between the way and the end which I am aiming at. I might be traveling amid most beautiful scenery, in the most delightful company; but if I have a home to which I want to go, all the scenery, and all the company, and all the beauty and happiness around me can not satisfy me; I want to reach the end; I want my home.
And God is meant to be the home of our souls."

– Andrew Murray, The Master's Indwelling

CLOWN CAR 2



In the fall of 2017 the China Ruggs purchased a new electric vehicle. Whereas their previous scooter in a box vehicle was something like 20% of a real car, this one is more like 90%. It is slightly smaller than a normal compact sedan, but we've already proven it can transport 8 safely. Also, it has a governor on the engine to prevent it from exceeding 45 KPH, but in town it is very rare to ever exceed that anyway. The ability to charge the electric engine with a built in gas generator greatly increases it's range and usefulness. It has been much easier to get around town and do more things together (like get groceries). We're looking forward to seeing where it can take us in 2018. 🚗

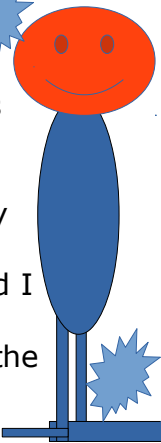




The JFK who came from the spaceship

By ALEXANDER RUGG

Once upon a time 2 people were in space zooming in a spaceship 1 of them was a JFK 1 time he sneaked into a house he stole the books next time sneaked into the house again And he made everything disappear then he un disappeared them And took everything to his house then he called someone the man who he was calling him said where is my stuff then he said I have them then the man asked some people to throw the JFK in jail



Tales of Omo And grandma sharla

By ALEXANDER RUGG

Once upon a time Omo And grandma sharla And Alexander And Aaron And Andrew went on an adventure but it was dangerous but



Omo had A plan she brought a rope along a axe along And a trap along and then went on the adventure suddenly a bad man came he began to attack them but Alexander grabbed the axe And killed him then he put the axe back

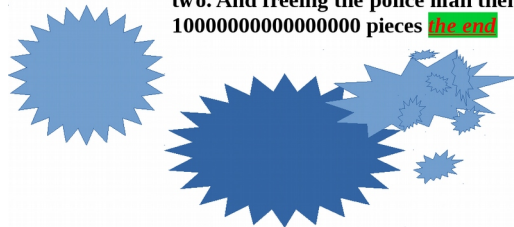


The Villain Who Came From Mars Part 2

By ANDREW RUGG

Chapter 2

1. explosions were ringing every time some thing disappeared from the neighborhood. finally the police saw the thief. it was the mars man.
2. When the police saw the thief the mars man was stealing a radio. **He froze one of the police with his pistol but then the rest of the police shot the pistol snapping it into two. And freeing the police man then they threw the mars man jail zapped his UFO into 10000000000000000 pieces the end**



THE END

∞AN AARON RUGG RIDDLE∞

A sword and spear I do not fear. A stone and slingshot I can bear.
But something from the sky's my bane. This clue should you to me name.

LOOK BEFORE YOU FIGHT

By ANDREW RUGG

